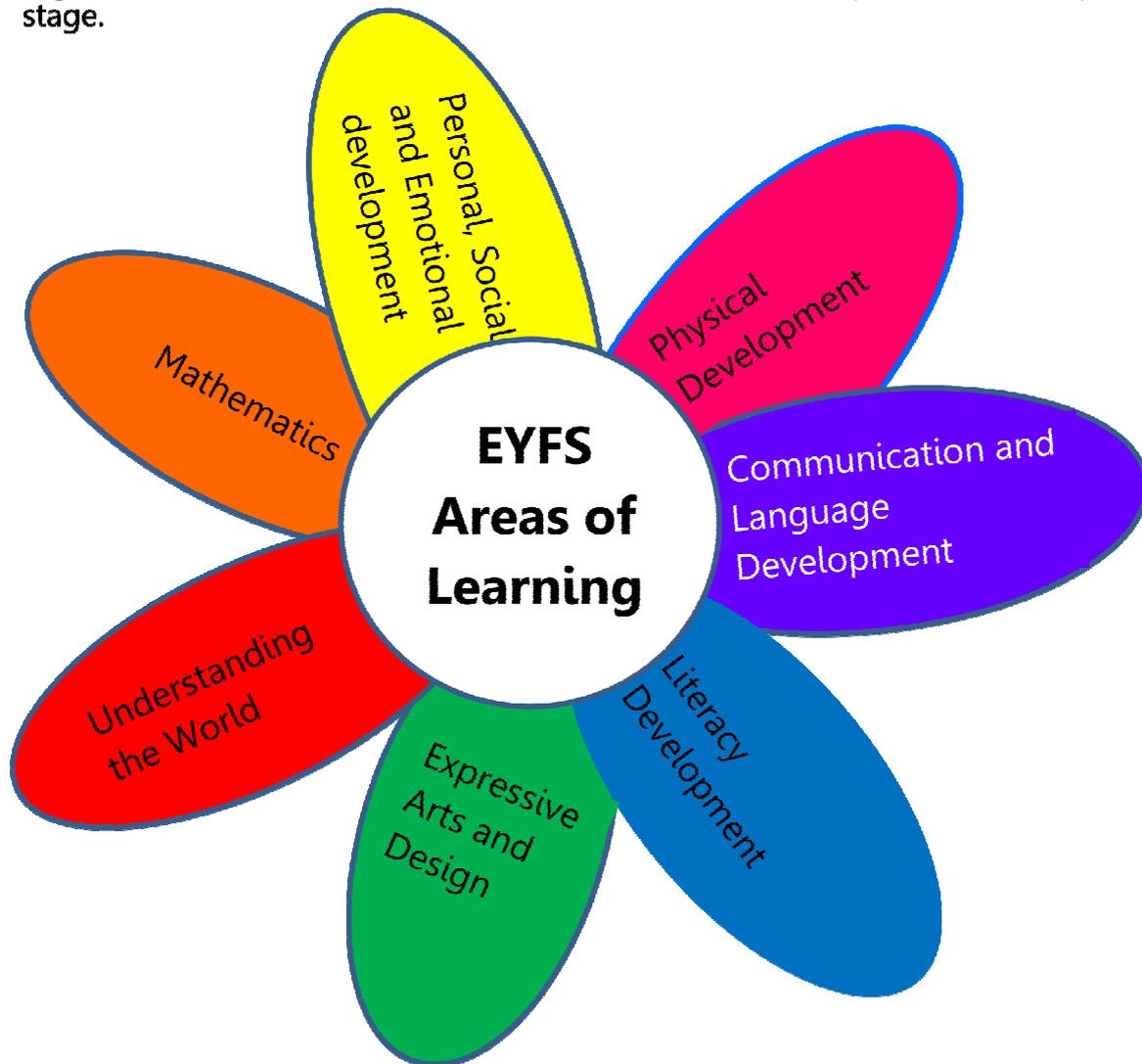


The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

This is the Curriculum for children from birth to 5. At the Southernway Federation this guides the teaching and learning in Pre-school and in the Reception classes.

The EYFS is made up of 4 themes: The Unique Child, Positive Relationships, The Enabling Environment and Learning and development. These themes are important as they all combine to ensure young children make good, strong progress in their earliest years. This Stage in life is the most important as children's minds and bodies grow and develop most from birth to age 4.

In Learning and Development there are 7 Areas of learning which the curriculum is organised into to make sure children make all round development in this important stage.



Read on to find more details about each area of learning and how children learn in the Foundation Stage.

The Seven Areas of Learning: Further Detail



In each area of learning, children's progress is recorded according to which developmental band their current observed achievements and skills best fit. The development bands are as follows:- 0-11 months, 8-20 months, 16-26 months, 22-36 months, 30-50 months, 40-60 months.

How Children learn in the EYFS At Southernway Federation (Oakwood and Beechwood)

The Early Years Foundation Stage is a period of education from 0 – 5 years. In our Early Years department, the children learn the skills needed to become strong, confident individuals who are capable of learning and achieving through positive relationships, enabling environments and an understanding that every child is unique.

The children are introduced to new ideas and further thinking through the seven Areas of Learning and Development:

The first three are known as the Prime Areas (Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Communication and Language and Physical Development) and develop quickly in response to relationships and experiences. These support and scaffold the four Specific Areas (Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the World and Expressive Arts and Design) which include essential skills and knowledge to ensure that children have the best possible start to their learning journey.

These skills, experiences and learning opportunities are presented to the children through meaningful play contexts and adult led activities which ensure that each child has the opportunity to play and explore in an active and engaging environment that allows them to be creative, think critically and take risks to achieve more.

In the Southernway Federation, children follow the EYFS in their Foundation Years. This will be spent in the Nursery and our Reception classes. Through interactive learning children follow the curriculum areas to build up key basic skills in the seven areas of learning. Teachers very carefully observe children to understand what they can do, how children are learning, and use this information to plan the next steps in their learning and development. Whenever possible the children's interests are used to inspire and engage deep learning. Learning takes place indoors and outdoors, in all weathers and teaching can be direct, in small or large groups, guided by the teacher or sometimes independent in response to a specific task or learning opportunity. These lessons and learning opportunities are planned to ensure children can apply their basic skills confidently and prepare them for the later stages of schooling in year 1.

Learning experiences and interests children have outside school are very important, especially those they share with parents and carers. These experiences promote deep learning and hold great value for children as they encounter new learning with those they are closest too. To help your child to learn the best they can in the Early Years we encourage partnership work. Please tell us how your child is learning at home, what they enjoy doing, and any new learning moments they have so we can build on this in school. Likewise we aim to share with you the developments your child makes as they progress well through the Foundation stage in The Southernway Federation.